



## Historic Holman Stadium Celebrates 75 Years!

Home of the Silver Knights, Nashua's Historic Holman Stadium celebrates its 75th anniversary as a hometown ballpark. Through a generous donation by Charles Frank Holman, the stadium was built in 1937 in honor of his father, Charles Holman. The patriarch came to the area as a poor salesman, succeeded in establishing a thriving business and later advanced to the role of mayor. The project also received funds from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Great Depression recovery plan, the New Deal. The building was designed by Philip S. Avery, a Nashua native and local architect. Built to be a stimulus for the local economy, Holman Stadium put Nashua on the map not ten years into its existence when the minor league affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers brought some new players to town.

In 1946 the Nashua Dodgers famously became the first American baseball team to integrate its roster when it welcomed Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe to the team. After struggling to find a home for the players, Dodgers president Branch Rickey turned to Nashua for its significant French-Canadian population and progressive newspaper, The Telegraph. Nashua Dodgers General Manager Buzzie Bavasi is quoted as stating, "If they can play ball better than what we have, we don't care what color they are." With that, the former Negro League stars were met by friendly fans at the ballpark as well as in restaurants and shops, effectively integrating America's favorite pastime and the small New England town at once.

In addition to hosting many college and high school baseball and football games over the years, the stadium has also been home to several farm teams including affiliates of the California Angels and Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1998, the Nashua Pride of the independent Atlantic League began an 11-year reign of the stands, giving the famed Monkey Boy his start and bringing baseball traditions of peanuts, fly balls and fireworks back to the community. In 2011, the Futures Collegiate Baseball League was formed and with it the Silver Knights were born. Named by local grade school students, the two time league champions have lived up to high expectations and continue to provide a family-friendly atmosphere for Nashua residents and visitors alike.

The stadium can accommodate over 4,000 fans and has acted as a venue for galas, benefits, carnivals and concerts with headliners ranging from The Beach Boys to Whitney Houston. For an updated schedule of events and ticket information please visit [www.nashuasilverknights.com](http://www.nashuasilverknights.com). With plans for festivals and new experiences always on the horizon, Holman Stadium is ringing in its 75th year with great promise for many more to come!

